

BOROUGH OF LEIGH.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1920.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Acts, local and adoptive	40
Analysis of Births and Deaths Rate	15
Appendices	66
Bacteriological Examinations	41
Births	10
Bakehouses	45
Canal Boats	28
Closet accommodation	18
Common Lodging-houses	23
Deaths, causes of	11-62
Diarrhœa in Infants	59
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Orders	43
Drainage	17
Factories and Inspection	21-22
Food and Drugs Act	29
Food	42
Health Committee	3
Homework	23
Hospitals	16
Housing	63
Infant Mortality	54
Infectious Diseases	30-45
Infectious Diseases Hospital	39
Inquests	13
Inspector of Nuisances Report	25
Maternity and Child Welfare	48
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	52
Milk	42
Milk (Mothers' and Children's Order)	44
Natural and Social Conditions	6
Nightsoil Removal	26
Notification of Births Act	50
Nuisances	31
Occupation of Inhabitants	7
Offensive Trades	21
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	54
Population of respective Wards	9
Premises controlled by Bye-laws	19
Puerperal Fever	54
Scavenging	19-27
Schools	20
Staff of Health Department	4
Smoke	21
Slaughter-houses	45
Summary of Statistics	8
Summary of Inspections	32
Table C	33
Tuberculosis	47
Vital Statistics	10-14
Water	16
Workshops and Inspection	21-22
Zymotic Diseases	13

BOROUGH OF LEIGH, 1920.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(GEORGE HOLDEN, Esq., J.P.)

Chairman :

Councillor HENRY ISHERWOOD, J.P.

Deputy-Chairman :

Councillor JAMES L. PRESCOTT.

Alderman GRUNDY, J.P.

Councillor FAIRHURST

„ HUNTER, J.P.

„ FLITCROFT

Councillor J. ASHWORTH, J.P.

„ GREGORY

„ BOOTH

„ HINDLEY

„ CLOSE

„ RODDY

„ DARWELL

„ SARGENT, J.P.

Staff of Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. CLAY BECKITT, M.R.C.S. England, L.R.C.P. London, D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

EDWIN JACKSON, A.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors :

WILLIAM T. FROST, Cert. R. San. I.

GEORGE YATES, Cert. R. San. I.

Clerk :

D. PASS.

Health Visitors :

Nurse A. B. BELYEA.

Nurse M. JONES.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the Borough of Leigh.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitation of your Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

The shortage of houses is still causing extreme overcrowding, with its accompanying interference with health and comfort. The inconvenience experienced is causing a feeling of dissatisfaction and unrest very prejudicial to the well-being of those concerned.

These circumstances greatly hamper the efficiency of the work of the department, as little can be done to remove serious sanitary defects till more houses are available to receive the occupants.

I would again urge the necessity of completing the conversion of privies into fresh water closets, and the substitution of covered ash-bins for ash-pits.

I am pleased to be again able to report a substantial increase in the number of births. There were registered during the year 1221, as compared with 984 in 1919 and 939 in 1918.

The number of deaths also compares very favourably with the previous year, being 655, as against 690 in 1919.

One hundred and thirty infants died under one year, making a rate per 1,000 births of 106·47.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Population, 1911, 44,103. Registrar-General's estimation, 46,239.

Physical features and general character of the district : Position, Latitude $53^{\circ} 29'$, Longitude $2^{\circ} 31'$.

The Borough covers an area of 6,347 acres, a large part of which is entirely rural and agricultural.

This agricultural portion is partly under tillage but mainly pasture land, the greater part of the milk supply being derived from dairy farms within the Borough.

The whole district is flat and low-lying, rising from about 60 feet to 150 feet above sea level. In many parts of the Borough these levels are being gradually altered to a serious extent owing to subsidence from colliery workings, which ramify under the greater part of the area.

This subsidence has already had an important effect on the economic and hygienic aspect of the district, and in the future is likely to become an even more serious factor than it has been in the past. It has caused about 200 acres to be continually covered with water.

Geologically the Borough must be regarded as an area of clay and sand covering the new red sandstone, beneath which are the coal measures.

The distribution of the surface clay and sand is very irregular, but on the whole the clay predominates.

The population is largely concentrated in the central part of the Borough area, producing a densely populated urban and a sparsely populated surrounding rural area.

These circumstances remove the advantages of the unusually large acreage, and which averages only seven persons per acre.

The general low-lying and level nature of the district and the prevalence of clay in the sub-soil combine to make the climate extremely

damp and cold and accordingly favourable to the development of the various diseases of the respiratory organs and all that class of affections still usually grouped together as “Rheumatic.”

This dampness, however, makes the district particularly favourable to Cotton working, and a large number of people are engaged in this work.

OCCUPATION.

The census returns showed that of a total of 16,988 males, aged ten years and upwards, 14,985 were engaged in occupations. The chief of these are :—

Coal Mine Works	...	...	...	...	5782
Cotton Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	2168
General Engineering	...	...	...	...	1344
Food, Tobacco, Drink, and Lodging	...	...	...	...	932
Building and Works of Construction	...	...	...	...	818
Agriculture	...	...	...	...	263

The total of females of ten years and upwards was 17,252, of which 6,767 were engaged in one or other of the following occupations :—

Cotton Manufacturing	...	...	...	...	3978
Other Textile Manufacturing	...	...	...	...	499
Domestic Service	...	...	...	...	517
Shop Work	...	...	...	...	280
Dressmakers...	...	...	...	...	186
Teachers	...	...	...	...	193

The number of married women following occupation was 1,127, being at the rate of 138 per 1000.

There was also 375 boys and 341 girls between the ages of 10 and 14 engaged in occupation, practically one-fifth of all the children in the Borough between those ages.

The 1911 Census show that 8 per cent. of the population lived in overcrowded conditions, *i.e.*, more than two persons per room. The condition has become very much worse during the year, many houses being occupied by two or three considerable sized families.

SUMMARY OF VITAL, MORTAL AND OTHER STATISTICS,
1920.

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	6,347 acres
Area of Water	...	...	...	...	200 ,,
Population (estimated)	...	...	...	...	46,239
Density	...	...	...	...	7.28
New Houses Certified 1920...	...	...	...	...	14
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£237,669 os. od.
Births	...	...	...	...	1221
Birth-rate...	...	...	...	...	26.40
Deaths	...	...	...	...	655
Death-rate corrected for transferable deaths	...	...	...	...	14.16
Infant Mortality figure per 1000 births	...	...	...	...	106.47
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	...	1.12
Diarrhoea Death-rate	...	...	...	...	0.69
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death-rate	...	...	...	...	1.18
Other forms of Tuberculosis Death-rate	...	...	...	...	0.17
Respiratory Diseases Death-rate	...	...	...	...	3.11
England and Wales Death-rate	...	...	...	...	12.4
,, Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	25.4

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE CENSUS FIGURES FOR 1911 AND
THE ESTIMATED FIGURES FOR 1920.

WARDS.	Population.		No. of Houses.		No. of Persons per House.		Acreage.		Density of Population.	
	Census 1911.	Estimated 1920.	Census 1911.	Estimated 1920.	Census 1911.	Estimated 1920.	1911.	1920.	Census 1911.	Estimated 1920.
St. Paul's ...	5255	5675	953	1005	5.51	5.6	674	674	7.79	8.42
St. Mary's ...	12204	12659	2535	2589	4.8	4.9	242	242	50.43	52.31
Lilford ...	4653	4716	1043	1056	4.4	4.4	261	261	17.82	18.06
St. Thomas's...	5109	5195	1129	1134	4.5	4.6	289	289	17.67	18.00
St. Joseph's ...	5094	5254	1067	1087	4.7	4.8	572	572	8.90	9.18
Hope Carr ...	2702	3060	577	721	4.6	4.2	2695	2695	1.00	1.13
Etherstone ...	4504	4796	878	895	5.1	5.3	899	899	5.01	5.3
St. Peter's ...	4588	4884	839	848	5.4	5.7	715	715	6.41	6.83
For whole Borough ...	44109	46239	9021	9335	4.9	4.95	6347	6347	6.95	7.28

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the Borough is 46,239.

The following Table gives the estimated population of each Ward :—

Wards.	Estimated Population.	No. of Houses.	No. of persons per house.	Acreage.	Density of Population.
St. Paul's ...	5675	1005	5·6	674	8·42
St. Mary's ...	12659	2589	4·9	242	52·31
Lilford ...	4716	1056	4·4	261	18·06
St. Thomas's ...	5195	1134	4·6	289	18·00
St. Joseph's ...	5254	1089	4·8	572	9·18
Hope Carr ...	3060	721	4·2	2695	1·13
Etherstone ...	4796	895	5·3	899	5·3
St. Peter's ...	4884	848	5·7	715	6·83
Total ...	46239	9335	4·95	6347	7·28

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered in the Borough during the year was 1221. Of these 629 were boys and 592 girls, giving a rate of 26·4 per 1000 inhabitants, compared with a birth-rate of 21·03 in 1919.

Of the births registered 52 were illegitimate, which is 4·25 per cent. of the total births.

The highest birth-rate occurred in St. Paul's Ward 33·12, and the lowest in Lilford Ward 19·72.

The rate of excess of males over females born is 3·03 per cent.

DEATHS.

During the year 554 deaths were registered belonging to the Borough, giving a death-rate of 11·98 per 1000, compared with 604 deaths with a rate of 12·93 per 1000 in the preceding year.

In addition to the above, 101 transferable deaths have to be added being deaths of persons dying out of the Borough, but belonging to our district.

These give a recorded figure of 655, of which 354 were males and 301 females, making a death-rate of 14·1 per 1000.

The average death-rate for the ten years 1910 to 1919 is 16·4 per 1000.

The following Table gives the population, number of births and deaths, and rate per 1000 in each Ward during the year :—

		Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000.	Births.	Rate per 1000.
St. Paul's	...	5675	96	16·91	188	33·12
St. Mary's	...	12659	164	12·95	309	24·48
Lilford	...	4716	68	14·41	93	19·72
St. Thomas's	...	5195	58	11·16	114	22·15
St. Joseph's	...	5254	87	16·55	158	30·07
Hope Carr	...	3060	46	15·03	92	30·06
Etherstone	...	4796	66	13·76	135	28·14
St. Peter's	...	4884	70	14·33	132	27·02

The highest death-rate 16·91 occurred in St. Paul's Ward and the lowest 11·16 in St. Thomas's Ward.

In the previous year the highest death-rate was 17·74 in Hope Carr Ward and the lowest 12·60 in St. Thomas's Ward.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH, 1920.

GENERAL DISEASES, estimated on the figures given by the Registrar General.

		No. of deaths.	Per cent. of total of deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 of population.
1	Epidemic Diarrhœa	... 32	4·88	0·69
	Whooping Cough	... 1	0·15	0·02
	Specific Fevers	... 19	2·90	0·41
	Influenza	... 19	2·90	0·41

2. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

a	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	... 55	8·4	1·18
b	Other Tubercular Diseases	... 4	0·61	0·08
c	Cancer	... 42	6·42	0·90

3. DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASE.

a	Congenital Debility	... 46	7·03	0·99
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LOCAL DISEASES.

1	Heart and Circulatory System	... 81	12·39	1·75
2	Respiratory System—			
	a Bronchitis	.. 79	12·08	1·70
	b Pneumonia	... 63	9·63	1·36
3	Urinary System	... 11	1·68	0·23
4	Reproductive System—			
	Parturition	... 4	0·61	0·08
	Puerperal Fever	... 5	0·76	0·10
5	Other diseases			
	not specified in schedule	... 160	24·48	3·45

VIOLENT CAUSES.

1	Accidents	... 30	4·59	0·64
2	Suicides	... 4	0·61	0·08

ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

This Table shows the deaths and death-rate from these diseases during the past five years :—

Disease.				1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	..	...	—	29	3	24	9
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	7	2	1	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3	3	14	10	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	9	2	26	2	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	5	7	3	1	4
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	29	18	21	27	32
Totals	...	...	...	53	61	68	64	52
Rates per 1000 population				1·14	1·32	1·64	1·36	1·12

INQUESTS.

Forty-three inquests were held during the year, compared with 35 in the previous year. The causes of death were as follows :—

Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	...	8
Accidental Burning	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accidental Drowning	...	..	...	...	...	4
Accidental Injury	...	...	...	...	...	17
Accidental Scalding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suicide by Drowning	...	...	..	...	...	1
Accidental Shock	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fracture of Ribs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Found Drowned	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suicide by Cutting Throat	...	..	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	..	...	1

VITAL STATISTICS

	St. Paul's.	St. Mary's.	Lilford.	St. Thomas's	St. Joseph's.	Hope Carr.	Ether- stone.	St. Peter's,	Total.
Population ...	5675	12659	4716	5195	5254	3060	4796	4884	46239
No. of Houses.	1005	2589	1056	1134	1087	721	895	848	9335
Number of persons per house ...	5·6	4·9	4·4	4·6	4·8	4·2	5·3	5·7	4·95
Acreage ...	674	242	261	289	572	2695	899	715	6347
Density of Population per acre ...	8·42	52·31	18·06	18·00	9·18	1·13	5·3	6·83	7·28
Birth-rate per 1000 ...	33·12	24·48	19·72	22·15	30·07	30·06	28·14	27·02	26·40
Death-rate per 1000 ..	16·91	12·95	14·41	11·16	16·55	15·03	13·76	14·33	14·16
Infantile Death-rate per 1000 Births ...	117·02	103·56	86·02	61·40	158·23	99·02	103·70	98·48	106·47
Total Deaths..	96	164	68	58	87	46	66	70	655
Total Births ...	188	309	93	114	158	92	135	132	1221

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1920.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purpose of this Table).

	Birthrate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diph- theria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under 1 Year
Leigh	26.4	14.1	0.08	0.00	0.19	0.02	0.02	0.10	0.64	26.20	106.47
England and Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.48	8.3	80
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000) ...	26.2	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.43	10.4	85
148 Smaller Towns (Census Popula- tions 20,000—50,000) ...	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.38	7.8	80
London	18.3	13.4	0.01	...	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.47	9.5	75

The Rateable Value of the Borough is £237,669 os. od.

Poor Rate 7s. 6d.

General District Rate 6s. 6d.

Poor Law Out-door Relief £2,978.

HOSPITAL.

There is a voluntary Hospital of 30 beds situated in the Borough. It was built and is maintained by voluntary contributions, and was intended primarily to meet the demand for hospital treatment of industrial accidents. Its value and usefulness are much enhanced by the gift of a very complete Radiology Department, which has rendered good service to discharged soldiers and sailors through the Ministry of Pensions.

It is staffed by the Local General Practitioners. Recourse is also had to neighbouring larger and special hospitals in Manchester, Bolton and Wigan.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

With the exception of a few outlying houses and farms, the Borough is supplied with a constant service of water under arrangements with the Corporations of Liverpool and Manchester.

The service reservoir is situated about three miles outside the Borough, and is considered by the Water Engineer to be inadequate, having a storage capacity of only $1\frac{1}{2}$ days' consumption.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations have been made from time to time, and the water is reported in every instance to be satisfactory for domestic purposes.

Since it has been systematically treated to reduce its plumbo-solvent action, lead is absent under ordinary circumstances.

The last report as to its plumbo-solvency, by Professor Delepine, on February 13th, 1920, shows lead is practically absent.

The total hardness of the water is only $3\frac{1}{2}$ parts per 100,000.

The wells still available for use are frequently inspected and any necessary action taken to safeguard the contents from contamination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The whole of the urban portion of the Borough is sewered and drained. There is no separate system for the surface water.

The whole sewage, including trade effluent, is carried to the Sewage Farm by five main sewers, known as :—

The Joint Sewer	5ft. 9in. × 3ft. 10in.
Pennington High Level Sewer	} 15 to 24 inches
Pennington Low Level Sewer	
Bedford (High Bridge) Sewer	
Bedford (Duke Street) Sewer	

The dry weather flow is estimated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons daily.

The average flow is estimated at two million gallons daily.

In some districts of the Borough trouble has been experienced with both sewers and drains, owing to subsidence due to mining operations.

The sewers are ventilated by open surface manhole covers.

The treatment of the sewage is carried out by a Joint Board known as the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewerage Board.

The works are situated at the Sewage Farm in the Borough of Leigh, and with the exception of one area the sewage flows by gravitation to the works by five sewers. There are three pumping stations within the Borough for the purpose of passing the sewage into the main sewers.

At the farm, provision is made for treating a volume equal to three times the dry weather flow ; the remainder as storm overflow is passed on to a storm water area, seven acres specially drained and laid out.

The portion of sewage treated is screened, passed through detritus tanks, then treated chemically by milk of lime and copperas, and passed into the precipitation tanks.

There are ten precipitation tanks averaging 120ft. by 40ft. by $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft., with an aggregate capacity of over 2,000,000 gallons. They are worked on the continuous system, and are cleaned out as often as possible.

A portion of the tank effluent flows by gravitation on the farm, and is disposed of by land filtration on the broad irrigation system. The rest is pumped up and divided by an automatic distributor amongst six percolating filters.

The filters are 100 feet diameter, and contain an average depth of 8 feet of material, and are provided with sprinklers

They are worked on a system which is a compromise between the continuous and intermittent. All are used during the day time, and two have twelve hours rest each night. The effluent then passes through one or sometimes both humus tanks and on into the stream.

The effluent appears to be satisfactory.

The Sewage Farm consists of 129 acres, about half of which is used for sewage treatment, filters, tanks, and works.

The rest is farmed in the ordinary way, as the land is not altogether suitable for irrigation purposes, and natural drainage is very difficult.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

On December 31st, 1920, the Chief Sanitary Inspector reports as follows :—

Number of Houses	...	...	...	9335
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	7816
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	853
Privies	...	...	...	420
Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	3871
Wet Ashpits	...	...	...	209
Ashbins	...	...	...	1173

Each wet ashpit has usually two privies in connection with it. It is most imperative that the conversion should be proceeded with and completed as early as possible. The need is now greater than ever, since so much overcrowding exists.

SCAVENGING.

The control of the street scavenging is in the hands of the Surveyor. The Sanitary Inspector is responsible for the house scavenging. I am of opinion that it would be much better if this work was done by some other department of the Corporation. It should be the duty of the Sanitary Inspector to inspect the work and see that it has been carried out efficiently.

The house refuse is removed by direct labour in motor lorries and carts to the destructor and tips.

The scavenging of the principal streets is satisfactory, but less attention is given to the back streets. No sweepings or solid refuse should be deposited on any but authorised tips.

The more information that is gained of the disease-carrying propensities of the common fly, the more evident becomes the necessity of getting rid of all accumulation of exposed refuse such as is found in the wet and dry ashpit. Every one should be demolished and a loose metal bin with a fixed cover substituted.

Every yard should be properly paved and drained so as to prevent foul water and filth lodging for days, eventually becoming a putrifying mass attractive to flies and other vermin.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE
CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	21
(a) Registered	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	5
Cow-keepers	...	...	...	...	55
Milk Purveyors	...	...	...	...	9
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	9
Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	2
Common Lodging-houses			...	...	2
Cemetery	...	...	...	...	1
Tents and Vans	...	...	...	..	0

There are Bye-laws and Regulations controlling the above. No prosecutions were found necessary.

The number of vans which have visited the town during the year cannot be stated, as it varies from time to time. There are usually none. Occasionally several arrived together, but stayed only a few days. They generally accompany shows or pleasure fairs. No cases of infectious disease in a van came to my knowledge during the year.

There are no stationary vans in the Borough, but during the year we have been visited by travelling vans. These are frequently undesirable, especially if they stay in the urban part of the town. The police give us ready assistance when required. Notices are served to conform to the bye-laws when necessary, but they are difficult to enforce on account of the nomadic habits of these people.

To accommodate the occupiers at "Fair time," a stand pipe for water is supplied, and the sanitary conveniences are arranged for with private householders.

SCHOOLS.

There are 18 Public Elementary Schools, all "provided" except one, comprising 37 departments, and accommodating 8,851 children.

The average attendance for the year was 6,168.

In the case of infectious disease, exclusion certificates regarding the patients and contacts are sent by me as School Medical Officer to the Teacher with instructions not to allow attendance at School until a re-admission certificate is received. A certificate to the same effect is sent to the parent. The patient is not re-admitted until seen by me, and the contacts examined by me previous to re-admission.

The School premises are not in as good sanitary condition as is desirable. In many cases improvements are contemplated, and I expect will shortly be put in hand. All the schools have the public water supply and water closets usually with automatic flushing, and are drained into the public sewers.

The premises are visited regularly by the Sanitary Inspectors, and any grounds for complaint are reported and notices served as on ordinary property owners.

The Health Department disinfects the Schools when requested, and, in addition, special care is taken to thoroughly disinfect the School furniture and utensils after the occurrence of a case of Diphtheria in a School child.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Forty-nine observations were made during the year. Too much smoke, more or less dense, is emitted all over the district. Its presence is distinctly prejudicial to the health of animal and vegetable life. I am assured that it is quite unnecessary if reasonable care and interest is taken in the stoking of the boiler fires.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are nine on the Register, and consist of :—

Gut Scrapers, 4. Tripe Boilers, 4. Knackering, 1.

During the year 215 inspections were made, without discovering any cause of complaint.

No complaints were received in regard to any of the premises.

FACTORIES.

The supervision of Factories is carried out by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

On receipt of a notification by H.M. Inspector that sanitary arrangements require attention, the premises are inspected and the necessary action taken immediately. H.M. Inspector is then informed of such action.

WORKSHOPS.

There are 119 Registered Workshops and 50 Bake-houses in the Borough. The trades concerned are as follows :—

Boot Repairers and Cloggers	...	...	25
Dressmaking and Millinery	...	...	30
Blacksmiths	...	...	5
Wheelwrights	...	...	3
Motor Cycle Repairers	...	...	8

Tailoring	...	...	...	...	10
Cabinet Making	...	...	...	...	1
File Cutting	...	...	...	...	1
Saddlery	...	...	...	...	2
Tinplate Workers, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	8
Hosiery	...	...	...	...	5
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	6
Skip and Brush Works	...	...	...	...	3
Coopers	...	...	...	...	1
Stone Masonry	...	...	...	...	4
Picture Framing	...	...	...	...	2
Organ Building	...	...	...	...	1

119

Inspection has been systematically carried out by the Inspectors. Premises on which females only are employed are inspected by the Health Visitors. The provisions of the Act are carried out, and the sanitary condition of the premises is reported to be generally satisfactory.

During the year 491 inspections have been made. There have been no prosecutions.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)—

Number of Inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ Written Notices	8

WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)—

Number of Inspections	279
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WORKPLACES—

Number of Inspections...	204
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Total Number of Inspections	491
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2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Number of Defects found—

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
„ Ventilation	...	...	...	..	...	...	5
„ Drainage of Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sanitary Accommodation—Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Not separate for Sexes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	41

Number of Defects remedied—

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
„ Drainage of Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sanitary Accommodation—Not separate for Sexes...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	..	...	32

3.—HOMEWORK—LISTS RECEIVED FROM EMPLOYERS.

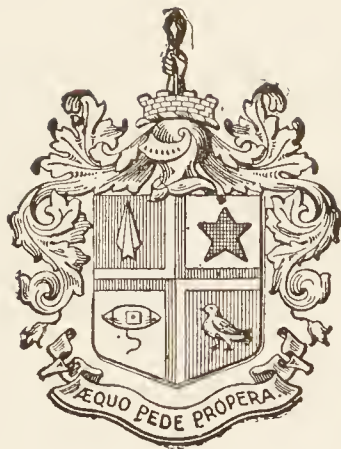
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c.—

Lists (sent twice a year)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Workmen (Outworkers' Lists sent twice a year)	...	...	...	...	...	2

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are two registered Common Lodging-houses in the Borough. These are regularly inspected, and 41 visits have been made. The bye-laws are carried out, and they are kept comparatively clean. No occasion has arisen for serving a notice or taking proceeding, and only one case of infectious disease has been reported. The state of overcrowding at present existing is developing a very undesirable number of tenements, supposed to be houses let in lodgings, but are really merely common lodging-houses. They are, however, not registered, and could not comply with the requirements if application was made. No action can be taken until some alternative accommodation is available.

BOROUGH



OF LEIGH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1920.

Health Department, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Reports on the Removal of Nightsoil and House Refuse ; the working of the Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884 ; the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875 to 1907 ; the Destruction of Unsound Food ; Infectious Diseases ; and Summary of Nuisances dealt with during the year ended December 31st, 1920.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN JACKSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND HOUSE REFUSE.

The removal of nightsoil and house refuse is carried out by and under the supervision of the Health Department.

The whole of the workmen are engaged and paid by the Committee, and the work is done in a much more satisfactory manner than when we engaged team labour by contract, as we have now full control of all the workmen.

We have at present four motor wagons and two horses owned by the Committee engaged in the removal of house refuse, and at certain periods we have to engage hired team labour to cope with the work.

There are 420 privies in the Borough, and I have no doubt that the greater portion of these will be converted during the ensuing year.

The following table gives the number of privies, ashpits and water-closets up to 31 December, 1920:—

Water-closets	...	...	7816
Waste Water-closets	...	...	853
Privies	...	...	420
Pails	...	...	5
Dry Ashpits	...	...	3871
Wet Ashpits	...	...	209
Ashbins	...	...	1173

SCAVENGING AND HOUSE REFUSE.

The following statement gives the total number of ashpits and cost of emptying same:—

Total Number of Ashpits, Bins and Pails	...	...	5258
Number of Ashpits Emptied	...	...	59807
Number of Loads Removed	...	...	9422
Weight of Refuse Removed	...	13,879 tons, 8 cwts.	
Cost of Emptying each Ashpit per annum	...	£1 os. 7½d.	
Cost of Emptying each Ashpit	...	...	1s. 9¾d.

The actual cost of removing the refuse was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Team Labour	1163	0	0
Manual Labour and War Bonus	3300	0	0
Spades, Brushes, Disinfectant, &c.	64	0	0
Repairs to Carts, &c.	67	0	0
Maintenance of Motor Wagons	582	0	0
Horse Keep...	216	0	0
Rent of Stable and Garage	30	0	0
Total	£5422	0	0

During the year 9,422 loads of refuse were removed, the total weight being about 13, 879 tons 8 cwts., and the cost 11s. 5½d. per load, or 7s. 9¾d. per ton.

The amount of ashpit refuse delivered at the Destructor Works was 9,868 tons 8 cwts., compared with 6,673 tons 8 cwts. in the preceeding year.

The remaing 4,011 were removed to other tips.

CANAL BOATS ACT, 1877 AND 1884.

During the year 24 Canal Boats were inspected, and all found to be clean, well kept and in good repair.

The Boats inspected were registered to receive 73 persons—67 in the after-cabins and 6 in the fore-cabins.

The number of persons found on the Boats at times of inspection was 29, viz :—24 males and 5 females.

The infringements of the Acts and Regulations were as follows, viz :—

Four Boats required re-painting.

Two Boats in bad condition required overhauling throughout.

One Boat the cabin required repairing.

One Boat required a new cabin.

One boat was found in a leaky condition.

There has been no necessity for the instituting of legal proceedings, as in each case the owners, upon having their attention drawn to the infringements, have as early as possible remedied the defects complained of.

There were no cases of Infectious Diseases on the Boats.

I have no infringements of the Acts and Regulations to report with regard to Registration, Notification of Change of Master, Certificates, Overcrowding, Separation of Sexes, Cleanliness, Ventilation, Provision of Water Cask, Removal of Bilge Water, Notification of Infectious Disease, Admittance of Inspector.

I estimate the number of Boats on the Register which can reasonably be believed to be in use, or available, at 139.

No new Boats have been registered during the year, and in no case has fresh registration been rendered necessary by structural alterations in Boats previously registered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 TO 1907.

Acting on the instructions of the Health Committee, no samples under the above Acts have been taken by this Authority.

The County Authority, being the responsible Authority for carrying out the provisions of the Acts, have submitted the following statement of samples taken during the year ended December 31st, 1920, viz :—

Milk 108, Coffee 11, Lard 9, Cheese 2, Margarine 9, Butter 11, White Pepper 11, and Flour, etc. 9.

Of the 108 Milk Samples 100 were genuine. In 7 cases the owners were cautioned by order of the Public Analyst. Proceedings were instituted against the owner of one sample and the case was dismissed.

The remaining samples were genuine.

UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED AND DESTROYED.

Beef	...	...	...	3860 lbs.
Mutton	..	...	..	1508 ,,
Pork	...	...	...	580 ,,
Fish	...	..	...	18716 ,,
Fruit	...	...	...	705 ,,
Rabbits	..	..	...	219 ,,
Milk	...	...	...	22 Tins
Eggs	...	...	...	782

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 429 cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified, of which 128 were Scarlet Fever, 7 Enteric Fever, 22 Erysipelas, 3 Chicken Pox 105 Diphtheria, 52 Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 8 Puerperal Fever, 20 Measles, 7 Malaria, 2 Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, 3 Dysentery, 1 Encephalitis Lethargica, and 71 Pneumonia.

Of this number, 88 cases of Scarlet Fever, 5 cases of Enteric Fever, 1 Encephalitis Lethargica, 3 Puerperal Fever, 2 Cerebro Spinal Fever, and 80 cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Sanatorium.

The deaths at the Sanatorium from this district were :—
Diphtheria 4, Enteric 3, Cerebro Spinal Fever 2, Scarlet Fever 1, Puerperal Fever 1, Encephalitis Lethargica 1.

During the year 360 houses and 2 schools have been disinfected after the following, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	122
Enteric Fever	..	...	...	7
Diphtheria	...	...	...	96
Phthisis	...	...	...	121
Cancer	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever		...	..	2
Filth	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Sickness	...	..	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica		...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	3
Dysentery	...	...	...	1
Schools	{ Mumps	...	...	1
	{ Measles	...	...	1

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES FOR 1920.

Nuisances Reported to Committee	..	...	...	...	475
,, Abated	...	...	...	...	449
Notices and Letters served on Owners and Occupiers	...				641
Number of Ashpits and Bins Emptied...		...		...	59807
Canal Boats Inspected	...	...	...	...	24
Weight of Beef Destroyed	...	...	...	...	3860 lbs.
,, Mutton	,,	...	...	...	1508 ,,
,, Pork	,,	...	...	..	580 ,,
,, Fruit	,,	...	...	...	705 ,,
,, Fish	,,	...	...	...	18716 ,,
,, Rabbits	,,	...	...	...	219 ,,
,, Milk	,,	...	...	...	22 Tins
,, Eggs	,,	...	...	...	782

The following Insanitary Conditions have been dealt with :—

Defective House Drains	...	...	...	...	673
,, Gullies	...	...	...	...	291
,, Sink Pipes	...	...	...	...	83
,, Water Closets	...	...	...	...	521
,, Privies	...	..	...	...	33
Defective Spouting	...	...	...	...	211
,, Roofs	...	...	...	...	103
,, Pavements, Channelling and Insanitary Yards...					71
Houses Repaired	...	...	...	...	204
Filthy Houses	...	...	...	...	25
Damp Houses	..	...	...	...	171
Insufficiently Ventilated	...	...	..	...	7
Ashpits Repaired	...	...	..	...	48

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Nuisances reported to Committee	...	...	...	...	475
Nuisances abated...	...	...	...	...	449
Number of dwelling-houses inspected under Sec. 17 Housing and Town Planning Act 1909	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of ashpits and ashbins emptied	...	...	...	...	59807
Common Lodging-houses—visits	...	...	...	...	41
Houses let in lodgings—visits	...	...	...	...	22
Vans and Tents —number of inspections	...	...	...	...	53
Workshops and workplaces	„	...	...	...	160
Offensive trades	„	...	...	...	215
Slaughter-houses	„	...	...	...	55
Dairies and cowsheds	„	...	...	...	70
Milk-shops	„	...	...	...	76
Smoke abatement—number of observations	...	...	...	...	49
Schools inspected	...	...	...	...	103
Ice cream makers—number of inspections	...	...	...	...	15
Pig-keepers	..	...	...	...	156
Bakehouses	...	...	...	..	116
Nightsoil and house refuse removed—tons	...	...	...	...	13879
Canal boats inspected	...	...	..	...	24

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT—

Unsound food condemned and destroyed	...	...	15588 lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	22 Tins
Eggs	...	...	782

TABLE C.

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1920.

URBAN DISTRICT OF LEIGH.

Medical Officer of Health : J. CLAY BECKITT.

Salary, £350. Bonus : Nil.

Is he a whole-time Officer : Yes.

Inspector of Nuisances : EDWIN JACKSON.

Salary, £240. Bonus : £171.

Is he a whole-time Officer : Yes.

Assistant Inspectors of Nuisances : W. T. FROST and G. YATES.

What is the character of the Hospital accommodation ? For Smallpox : Isolation Hospital. For other Infectious Diseases : Isolation Hospital.

Is it Joint or otherwise ? Joint, Leigh, Atherton, Tyldesley, Golborne, and Rural District.

Number of beds available for your District ? For Small-pox, 32 ; for other Infectious Diseases, 128.

How is Disinfection carried out ? Number of houses disinfected ? 360

Method : Fumigation, Sulphur and Formalin Lamps.

Are houses disinfected after Phthisis ? Yes. Measles ? Yes, if requested. Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise) ? Steam Disinfector. No. of Articles disinfected ? No record kept. Where is apparatus situated ? Destructor Works.

If apparatus at a Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c., of Patients not removed to the Hospital ? No.

Are any diseases notifiable other than those which are compulsorily notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, Chicken Pox, &c.) ? Nil. If so, what are they ? Nil.

Diseases specially prevalent ? Measles. Period ? January.

Number of times School Closure adopted ? Measles, Once (the Infants' Department). Any other diseases : Mumps (Infants' Department).

Number of special reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910? Nil.

Bacteriological Examinations. Specimens examined? Blood, 1; Throat Swabs, 47; Sputum, 13; Others, 2 Water.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept within the district? Yes, free of charge. If so, where? Town Hall.

Amount used during 1920? Four dozen.

“The Housing Acts, 1890 to 1919”—

Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article 1 of the Regulations of 2nd September, 1910? Yes.

Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article 1 (3), a list of dwelling-houses, the early inspection of which is, in the opinion of the M.O.H., desirable? Yes.

Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Articles 2 and 3? Yes.

What Officer has been so designated? M.O.H. and Inspectors.

Have the necessary books, forms, &c., for keeping the required records been obtained and maintained? Yes.

Are these kept up to date? Yes.

Action taken in 1919 under the Housing Acts :—

No. of Dwelling-houses specially inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909, *i.e.*, with a view to ascertaining whether any dwelling-houses are unfit for human habitation? 175.

Have the particulars of these inspections, as specified in Article II. (1) to (8), and Article III. (1) to (8), of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, been fully recorded? Yes.

No. of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation? nil.

„ Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders? nil.

No. of Closing Orders made? nil.

„ Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders? nil.

No, of Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders ? Nil.

,, Dwelling-houses demolished ? Nil.

General character of defects found to exist ? Various.

Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for purposes of the Housing Acts (not including inspections *re* Nuisances, &c.) ? nil.

If your Authority has a Housing Scheme, state what stage had been reached on December 31st, 1919, giving information under the following headings :

No. of Schemes submitted : 5.

No. of Lay-outs : Submitted, 5 ; Approved, 4.

No. of Houses included in House Plans : Submitted, 352 ; Approved, 222.

No. of Houses on which work has commenced : 104 ; completed, 6.

No. of Houses built during 1920 by private enterprise ? 8.

Source of the Water Supply ? Liverpool Corporation.

What is its condition ? Satisfactory.

Possibilities of contamination ? No knowledge.

Any insufficiency, and where ? No.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year ? Nil.

Are Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district ? Yes.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses) ? Sanitary Authority, under the Sanitary Staff.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night ? By day.

How is the Refuse disposed of ? 190 tons weekly by Destructor, the remainder taken to tips.

Has a Destructor been provided ? Yes. If so, where ? Twist Lane.

Sewage Disposal Works. Method of treatment? Bacteria Filter beds.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year? Water carriage.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system? Nil.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.? Systematic testing and flushing carried out.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams? Nil.

Canal Boats : Number Inspected? 24. Number of infringements of Acts? Nil.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses? Good. No.? 50.

„ „ Slaughter-houses? Good. No.? 21. No.
Registered? 16. No. Licensed? 5.
Has a Public Abattoir been provided?
No.

„ „ Lodging-houses? 2 Are they Registered?
Yes.

What is the sanitary condition of the Schools? Satisfactory.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected? Yes. What is their condition?
Cowsheds in good condition ; Milkshops and Dairies fairly good.

Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.? Yes?
Are they enforced? Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow—(a) Where cows are habitually grazed? 600 cubic feet. (b) Where cows are not habitually grazed? 800 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers.—

Total number of Cowkeepers? 55. Number on Register? 55.
No. of inspections during year? 70.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).—

Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors? 9. Number on Register? 9.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows? Yes,

Action taken (if any) as to Tuberculous Milk ? Nil.

Inspection of Food :—

Amount condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption—

(a) Tuberculous carcase and parts ? 6—2,760 lbs.)

(b) Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than above) ?
3,407 lbs.

(c) Other food-stuffs ? Fish 18,716, Fruit 705 lbs., Milk 22 tins,
Eggs 782.

Number of Legal Proceedings, and result ? Nil.

Department of Inspector of Nuisances—

Number of Notices served ? Informal, 475 ; Statutory, 43.

No. of Nuisances abated ? 449.

Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result ? Nil.

Closets and Ashpits—

Privy Middens :—Number of Middens ? 210. No. of Closets
attached to these middens ? 420.

No. of Pail Closets ? 5. No. of Ashpits (excluding Middens) ?
3,868.

No. of Fresh Water Closets ? 7808. No. of Portable Receptacles
for Refuse ? 1,160.

No. of Waste Water Closets ? 853.

No. of Privy Closets converted during 1920 ? To Fresh W.C.'s, nil ;
to Waste W.C.'s, nil ; to Pails, &c., nil.

Number of Pail Closets converted to :—Fresh W.C.'s ? Nil. To
Waste W.C.'s ? Nil.

No. of Waste W.C.'s converted to Fresh W.C.'s ? Nil.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion ? Yes,
been in abeyance during the war. If so, how much ? One-third
cost.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new
property ? Fresh water closets.

Smoke—

Number of Observations ? 49.

Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result ? Nil.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour ? 8 minutes.

Has the Authority adopted—

“ The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ” ? Yes.

“ The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ” ? Yes.

“ The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 ” ? Yes in part.

Has a Health Visitor been appointed by the Local Council ? State whether whole or part time ? Two Health Visitors give their whole time.

Qualifications of Health Visitors—

Has any, and if so what, action been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare work ? Yes, a Centre Home Visitation : Free Milk (dried and fresh).

Has any scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants ? Yes.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District ? Yes.

How many District Nurses employed ? Two.

If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work ? No.

If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work ? No.

Does the Association undertake (a) Midwifery Cases ? No. (b) Monthly Nursing ? No.

Notable Sanitary improvements during 1920 :—None.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District :—Houses and Conversions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital for the Borough of Leigh is under the control of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, and is for the combined district of Atherton, Golborne, Leigh Borough, Leigh Rural District and Tyldesley.

The number of beds available for the whole district are :—For Small Pox, 32 beds ; Other Infectious Diseases, 128 beds.

The following table shews the number of infectious diseases notified in the Borough during the year, with the number of cases removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital for isolation and treatment:—

	No. of Cases notified.		No. of Cases removed to Hospital.		No. of Cases discharged cured.		No. of Deaths in Hospital.
Diphtheria	105	...	80	...	72	...	4
Erysipelas	22	...	—	...	—	...	—
Scarlet Fever	128	...	88	...	70	...	1
Enteric Fever.....	7	...	5	...	2	...	3
Puerperal Fever... ..	8	...	3	...	2	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	52	...	—	...	—	...	—
Measles	20	...	—	...	—	...	—
Pneumonia	71	...	—	...	—	...	—
Malaria	7	...	—	...	—	...	—
Dysentery	3	...	—	...	—	...	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	1	...	—	...	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	2	...	2	...	—	...	2
Chicken Pox	3	...	—	...	—	...	—

ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS AND GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

LEIGH CORPORATION ACT, 1903.

The following Acts have been adopted :—

Baths and Wash-houses Acts, 1879.
 Private Street Works Act, 1892.
 Libraries Act, 1892.
 Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Part II. to V.)
 Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 (Part III.)
 Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
 Museum and Gymnasiums Act, 1891.
 Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907—
 Part V. (whole)
 ,, X. ,,
 ,, II. Sections 22, 30 and 33.
 ,, III. ,, 34, 36, 37, 49 and 51.
 ,, IV. ,, 55, 56, 63, 64 and 65.

The following sections in the local Act have been repealed :—

Sec. 151.
 ,, 167 (so far as relates to Sec. 34 of the
 Act of 1907).
 ,, 210.
 ,, 211.
 ,, 212.

REPORT OF PUBLIC ANALYST.

The County Authority administers the Food and Drugs Act.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS MADE IN 1920.

The following table shews the bacteriological work done during the year. This work is of great value to the community. It is not only valuable to the patient and medical man in attendance, but it enables the Medical Officer to have a better control over the infectious diseases, cases suitable for removal to the Hospital, and also over the control of infectious diseases in the elementary schools :—

*Number of specimens of sputum examined for the Tubercle Bacillus	13
„ „ giving positive results	3
„ „ giving negative results	10
„ „ examined for Diphtheria Bacillus	47
„ „ found to be positive Diphtheria	17
„ „ „ negative Diphtheria	30
„ „ Blood	1
„ „ giving positive results	0

* These are in addition to the examinations made by the Tuberculosis Officers of the County Council.

FOOD.

MILK.

The unsatisfactory position as regards the milk supply in this country has long been under discussion, and the report of the Departmental Committee on the "Production and Distribution of Milk," which has recently been published, points out that the supply is neither adequate nor pure. Few people understand that this is so, and that there are inherent difficulties in obtaining an adequate and pure supply at a price available for the poor consumer.

Far from being pure, much of the milk retailed is very dirty. It is exposed to pollution from the cow, the milker, the cowshed, and in delivery. After reaching the home of the consumer it is allowed to become dirtier still, owing to ignorance or inadequate facilities.

The chief point about milk pollution lies in the fact that germs rapidly multiply in it, and if it was not an opaque but a transparent fluid, the number of germs often present would be sufficient to render it cloudy in appearance.

After various recommendations as to a national policy, methods of research in dairying, and economy in production, the Committee proceed to state that all producers and dealers in milk should be licensed, and that a system of grading milk should be introduced, based on bacteriological examination and on methods of production and treatment.

The Committee also deals with railway transport.

With regard to the adoption of milk depots, it is suggested they should be of three specified types, as follows :—Chilling depots, drawing milk from a comparatively short radius (10 miles), capable of handling up to 500 gallons ; larger depots, still confined to liquid milk, with a capacity up to 2,000 gallons ; depots for dealing with liquid milk, but equipped with cheese-making plant and a capacity of 500 to 2000 gallons.

As regards retail distribution, two deliveries a day are required if milk is to be fit for consumption by infants.

The ideal of delivery in bottles seem impracticable at a reasonable price in this country.

I have made several tests for cleanliness by the souring test and invariably find the milk to fall far short of a reasonable standard.

Samples for chemical test are taken by the County Council Inspectors. One hundred and eight were analysed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK SHOPS ORDERS.

There are on the Register 55 Cowsheds, 9 Milkshops and Dairies, and 64 Purveyors of Milk.

They have been regularly inspected during the year, 146 visits having been made. Speaking generally, the Cowsheds were found to be fairly satisfactory. There is a tendency, however, to limit the ventilation and lighting, particularly in winter, with the mistaken idea that the increased warmth is conducive to the comfort and health of the animals.

The quantity of milk supplied to the town was quite inadequate, but the high price so limited the demand that the deficiency was not very apparent. The uneconomical method of distribution partially accounts for the high price, and is largely responsible for the unclean condition of the milk. When it is realised that most of the milk is carried about the town for hours, exposed to germ-laden dust scores of times, dust-covered vessels, and unclean hand and coat sleeve thrust into the churn each time a pint of milk is served, it is easily seen that an increasingly dirty milk results, diminishing in value until it becomes a poison instead of a most essential article of food.

The prejudicial effect of such milk is hardly appreciable except in infants and invalids, who are more or less dependent upon it.

Besides the loss to the consumer on account of early souring, it is recognised that dirty milk is much more likely to contain germs of definite infectious disease, Enteric Fever, Tuberculosis, etc. The tubercular affection of the glands of the neck and abdomen, so prevalent in children, is due to drinking milk from cattle suffering from Tuberculosis.

Direct control, from production to final distribution, by the Municipality is, I believe, the only way to secure a satisfactory supply of clean milk.

During the year 108 samples of milk taken in the Borough were analysed. From a health point of view, cleanliness of the milk is of much greater importance than its adulteration. It is to be hoped that the Milk and Dairies Consolidation Act when brought into operation will have the effect of securing to the public a clean, pure, wholesome supply of milk at a reasonable price.

What is needed is a realisation by the public that they are not getting clean milk, and that germ-laden milk, although apparently drunk with impunity by adults, is not fit food for infants and young children. The mere straining of milk and the removal of particles visible to the naked eye have no good effect as far as the bacteriological content is concerned. The use of a hooded milk pail and the immediate cooling of the milk are two precautions which have great effect in excluding and limiting their development.

It is essential therefore, that persons trading in milk should have some knowledge of the hygienic aspect of the case, or is it likely that they can be got to carry out precautions, the object of which they do not follow? Pure milk is certainly as important as pure beer. Householders should, of course, take all possible means to prevent further contamination of the milk after they receive it. It should be kept covered at a low temperature, and the jug or bowls into which it is received should have been thoroughly cleansed with boiling water immediately before.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1919.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee instructed the M.O.H. to formulate a scheme, which was subsequently approved, whereby necessitous expectant and nursing mothers and infants who joined the Welfare Centre and were thus under observation, were allowed milk—fresh or dried—at or below cost price.

Careful inquiry was made as to financial circumstances in each case and the statements of income verified. I am satisfied the milk proved a great boon and materially contributed to the well-being and even saving of life of many of the recipients.

MEAT.

The Slaughter-houses are visited and the meat inspected.

There is no Public Abattoir. Three-quarters of the Slaughter-houses are registered.

		In 1914.	January 1920.	December 1920.
Registered	...	17	4	15
Licensed	..	5	1	5

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 50 on the Register.

Of these 7 are factories, 21 workshops, and 22 are retail bake-houses.

There were 116 inspections made.

All are inspected regularly, the bye-laws enforced, and they are maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition. I should like to see greater cleanliness in the work, considering it is preparation of human food.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of diseases notifiable during 1920 :—

Smallpox
Cholera
Membraneous Croup
Erysipelas
Scarlet Fever
Typhus Fever
Typhoid Fever
Enteric Fever
Continued Fever
Relapsing Fever
Puerperal Fever
Cerebro-Spinal Fever
Acute Poliomyelitis,

Encephalitis Lethargica
 Ophthalmia Neonatorum
 Tuberculosis.
 Malaria
 Dysentery
 Trench Fever
 Acute Primary Pneumonia
 Acute Influenzal Pneumonia

Scarlet Fever was the most prevalent infectious disease in the district during the year. One hundred and twenty-eight cases were notified with one death, as against 26 the previous year with no death. The cases were scattered more or less all over the district and no outstanding source of infection was ascertained. There was no example of a definite "return" case.

Diphtheria still continues to occur. There were 105 cases notified as against 101 in 1919. The cases are of all ages, and spread throughout the district. It is quite exceptional for more than one case to occur in the same house or for evidence of contact to be discovered. Careful enquiries are made in each case, but common factors are usually quite absent. Certainly milk suppliers could not be blamed and school attendance did not appear to be responsible. How far public entertainment houses, particularly picture houses, may contribute it is difficult to say, especially as they so universally visited.

Swabs are examined for the Medical Practitioners by the Corporation and Anti-toxin is supplied free. Early administration of the anti-toxin is urged, and arrangements are made whereby each practitioner has a swab and an initial dose of anti-toxin in his possession.

During the year 47 swabs were examined and 48 doses of anti-toxin supplied.

All contacts are ascertained by the Inspector at his house visitation. Supplemented by teachers return of scholars in immediate contact in the case of school children, and workmates in the case of workers, obtained from the shop concerned.

Very few cases of Measles were notified, namely 20, and these were mostly ascertained indirectly by Health Visitors or through the Schools.

Information with regard to cases of Infectious Diseases is acted upon in the first instance by the School Nurse, who reports to the S.M.O. and M.O.H. for further action if necessary.

Influenza accounted for 19 deaths or 2·9 per cent. of the total deaths, as against 98 or 14·2 per cent. in the previous year.

No vaccination was done by the M.O.H.

There are no facilities for cleansing or disinfecting verminous persons, but clothing—personal and household—is disinfected by heat on request.

Tuberculoses showed a greater prevalence of incidence and deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications: Pulmonary	88	} 141
Non-pulmonary	53	

Deaths: Pulmonary	55	} 59
Non-pulmonary	4	

Rate per 1000, Pulmonary,	1·18	} 1·27
„ Non-pulmonary,	·08	

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary located in the Borough, which is the centre of a Dispensary Area under the Lancashire County Tuberculosis Scheme.

Cordial co-operation exists between the staff of the Dispensary and the Public Health Department of the Borough, particularly in regard to school children. It has been found that great mutual benefit has accrued. On request, all premises are disinfected by the Health Department. During the year 121 have been so treated, and also those

in which death from Tuberculosis took place. Accommodation for Sanatorium treatment is still much restricted, and many highly suitable cases have to remain in indifferent surroundings until their chance of greatest benefit has passed. Until the housing condition is improved, it cannot be hoped that much headway can be made towards eradicating this disease. Isolation of the chronic infective cases is equally necessary.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1920.

Notifiable Disease.				Cases Notified.	Removed to Hospital.		Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	128	...	88	—
Measles and German Measles	...	...	...	20	...	—	9
Diphtheria	...	...	...	105	...	80	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	22	...	—	3
Pneumonia	...	..	...	71	...	—	63
Malaria	...	...	...	7	...	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	7	...	5	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..			52	...	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...		8	...	3	5
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...			2	...	2	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	3	...	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...			1	...	1	1
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	3	...	—	—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Statutory Committee appointed under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, is a Sub-Committee of the Health Committee along with two co-opted ladies,

The centre is housed in Stone House and meetings are held weekly of expectant and nursing mothers and infants under 5 years. The Medical Officer attends and examines :—

(a) All new cases.

(b) Those cases referred to by the Nurses on account of unsatisfactory progress or other reason.

(c) Those who wish to consult the M.O.

Records are kept and are available for other departments of Public Health Service immediately or in the future.

Every effort is made to secure treatment or other assistance found necessary.

Necessitous cases are assisted by the provision of milk and other help sought.

The Staff at the Centre consists of Medical Officer, who is also M.O.H. and S.M.O., 2 Health Visitors, 1 School Nurse, and 2 Voluntary Helpers.

The Health Visitors make themselves conversant with the home conditions and circumstances by home visitation, etc., and utilise the occasion of their first visit after receipt of notification of birth to canvass the mother for her attendance at the centre.

The home of every notified birth is visited by a Health Visitor on the 10th or 11th day and as often afterwards as is considered necessary. This list is further corrected by the Registrars of Birth and omissions dealt with. It is extremely difficult to get into touch with the expectant mother, and I am afraid many pay a heavy penalty for not taking advantage of facilities available in their interest. It is possible a more ready response would be made to the invitation to seek advice if facilities existed for local institutional treatment for cases requiring it—such as a Maternity Home, Hospital or Wards set apart for the purpose.

The present overcrowding and the disinclination of the general practitioner to undertake Midwifery work make the provision of a Maternity Home more urgent than ever. I fear the lack of some such facility may before long produce a calamity.

The services of all voluntary agencies are utilised to their fullest extent and a close co-operation of activities is maintained. The School Medical Service is co-ordinated with the Maternity and Child Welfare and General Public Health Services under one head and all information and facilities are mutually available.

On receipt of notification or information by other means of the incidence of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Epidemic Diarrhoea, Poliomyelitis, Measles or Whooping Cough, particularly in women and young children, the home is visited by the Health Visitor who gives what assistance is necessary in nursing, advice, etc., and reports to the M.O.H. exceptional circumstances requiring a remedy. Each case is dealt with on its merits and according to the particular requirements. Assistance in nursing, securing medical attention, provision of food, removal of sanitary defects, etc., is carried out with a view to immediate saving of life and prevention of future incidence.

The actual benefits can hardly be measured, but it is felt from the welcome given to the Nurses by the patients and friends that it is appreciated and the want realised, and it must result in a general improvement in health conditions.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

Total Births registered in the Borough (for the year ending

December 31st, 1920)	...	...	...	1221
Total Births notified in Borough	...	...	...	1237
Born living	...	..	...	1190
Still-born	...	...	...	47
Premature	...	...	...	28
Nature of Confinement—Normal	...	...	...	1038
Abnormal	...	...	...	162

Notified by :—

Medical Men	...	...	...	...	230
Midwives	...	...	...	...	1007
Birth enquiries made	...	...	...	...	1200
Deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	130

Condition of Child at Birth :—

Healthy	...	...	...	...	1082
Weakly	...	...	...	...	118
Injured at birth	...	...	...	...	5
Congenital deformity	...	...	...	...	8

Method of Feeding (within two weeks of birth) :—

Breast fed	...	...	...	...	985
Breast fed (partly)	...	...	...	...	104
Artificially fed	...	...	...	...	86
Unable to be fed	...	...	...	...	25
Wilfully Neglected	...	...	...	...	0
Long tube bottles used...	...	...	...	...	17
Glass tube bottles used	...	...	...	...	0

Number of Deaths under 1 year :—

Breast fed	...	...	...	...	34
Breast fed (partly)	...	...	...	...	35
Artificially fed	...	...	...	...	15
Still-born	...	...	...	...	47
Spoon fed or unable to feed	...	...	...	...	34

Condition of Home :—

Clean	...	...	...	...	1033
Fair	...	...	...	...	151
Dirty	...	...	...	...	16
Nuisances existing	..	...	...	...	160
Poverty and Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	83

Summary :—

Total Visits to Houses...	...	...	...	1200
Re-visits	...	...	...	4546
Mothers extra domestically employed	...	...	...	154
Ante Natal Visits	...	...	...	29
Visits to children over 1 year	...	...	...	1229

Occupations of Mothers extra domestically employed (45) :—

Cotton Operatives ..	103	Dressmakers ...	3
Coal Cleaners ...	9	Domestic Work ...	8
Machinists	3	Crane Driver ...	1
Brass Stamper ...	1	Cable Hand ...	1
Stewardess ...	1	Polisher	1
Hawker	2	Typist	1
Bottle Washer ...	2	Knitter	1
Fire-light Maker ...	2	Spindle Maker ..	1
Tram Guard ...	1	Business and House	
Domestic	6	combined	3
Laundry	2	Canteen Worker ...	2

Period of rest (in bed) of Mother after confinement :—

Under 10 days	42
Children reported as delicate	118
Number of Children Insured : Practically all the Babies visited	
Sanitary Defects discovered and reported to Health Department...	160
Overcrowding	83
Number of Illegitimate Children	41

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

The work at the Centre has received considerable attention during the year.

An Infant and Mothers' Clinic is held every Monday afternoon at Stone House. The babies are brought by the mothers to be weighed. The Medical Officer sees the babies, gives advice and in necessitous cases recommends free food for the baby or mother. The weights and general conditions of health are recorded on cards and these are filed for future reference.

The Centre under its present cramped circumstances is doing quite good work, it is appreciated by the mothers, and they are grateful for the advice given. It has been the means of saving a number of infant lives and with appropriate extension many more may be helped.

Two Health Visitors are provided. They undertake the home visiting and assist at the Child Welfare Centre.

The supply of infant foods—free and by purchase—through the Centre was of great benefit to the babies during the period when infant foods were almost unprocurable in the shops and cows milk scarce.

I have formulated a scheme which provides a considerable extension of the work and which when adopted in its entirety will form a fairly complete service and will be easily accessible to mothers living in every part of the Borough. To make the scheme absolutely complete, a suitable building is still required in the neighbourhood, to be used as a Maternity Home and Hospital, and Rest and Convalescent Home for mothers and babies.

Too much effort cannot be applied to this worthy object of prevention of infant mortality, and every penny well spent is a good investment.

489 babies were entered on the books.

2654 visits were paid by infants to the Centre.

8 deaths of babies attending occurred in the 12 months.

Many cases of severe illness associated with diseases of the alimentary tract recovered.

The cost of running the Babies' and Mothers' Welfare Centre was £549 os. od.

In addition to the ordinary work carried on during the year, the following articles of food and clothing have been disposed of at a small charge or free to necessitous cases :—

5553 pints of New Milk.

1483 1 lb. tins of Dried Milk (given).

9896 1 lb. tins of Dried Milk (sold).

20 4oz. pots of Virol have been given.

2183 4oz. pots of Virol have been sold.

18 Maternity bags are provided and are in constant use.

21 Articles of Clothing supplied to necessitous cases.

2 Tins of Lactogal (given).

15 Tins of Lactogal (sold).

9 2oz Packets of Sugar (given).

20 2oz Packets of Sugar (sold).

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified	...	52
Visits to Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases	...	841

Results of Treatment :—

Cures (complete)	...	...	...	...	48
Partial Blindness (one eye)...	...	...	...	...	0
Blindness (complete) ...	...	...	...	...	0
Still under Treatment	...	...	...	...	4
Removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	11

The Health Visitors have done excellent work in looking after these cases. This is shewn, not only in the number of visits paid, but also by the results. In my opinion, this is one of the most important branches of preventive medicine. By early notification and proper treatment carried out regularly and systematically, few, if any, cases of blindness should result.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Eight cases notified.

Result—5 died ; 3 cured.

31 Visits.

3 Removed to Hospital.

INFANT MORTALITY IN 1920.

The Infant death-rate for 1920 shews a slight increase on that of the previous year. Considering all the factors against which we have had to fight this is encouraging.

At the same time it is necessary to persevere with the Infant Welfare work, as all the conditions favourable to a high Infant Mortality are to be found in industrial centres.

The work of looking after Infants has gone on continuously through the year. The Health Visitor visits the homes after notification of the birth, and when necessary assists with advice as to the feeding

and general care of the Infant. Cases needing prolonged care are invited to attend regularly at the Babies' and Mothers' Welfare Centre, where systematic weighings, advice and help are given weekly.

In order to get reliable information, I have investigated the deaths of every child dying under the age of 12 months since January 1st, 1920, and the tables which follow throw light on the causes of death as well as the social and economic condition affecting the infants.

During the year under review 130 deaths of infants under one year of age were notified, giving a rate per 1000 births of 106, as compared with 101 per 1000 in the previous year.

The following table gives the Infantile Mortality rates for the last five years :—

	No. of Deaths under 1 year.		Rate per 1000 Births.	
1916	...	136	...	134
1917	...	106	...	116
1918	...	135	...	143
1919	...	100	...	101
1920	...	130	...	106

Of 1221 births 52 were illegitimate. Of these 8 died, giving a mortality rate of 153 per 1000 births. In the previous year of 49 illegitimate children 8 died, giving a mortality rate of 163 per 1000. The mortality rate for legitimate children in 1920 is 104, as against 98 in 1919.

The highest birth-rate occurred in St. Paul's Ward, 33.12, and the lowest in Lilford Ward, 19.72.

The highest infantile death-rate, 158.23 per 1000 births, occurred in St. Joseph's Ward, and the lowest, 61.40, in St. Thomas's Ward.

In the previous year the highest infantile death-rate was 124.37 in St. Mary's Ward, and the lowest 77.77 in St. Thomas's Ward.

The following table gives the number of births, the number of deaths under one year, and the Infantile Mortality rate in each Ward :—

Ward.		Births.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 Births.
St. Paul's	...	188	22	117·02
St. Mary's	...	309	32	103·56
Lilford	...	93	8	86·02
St. Thomas's	...	114	7	61·40
St. Joseph's	...	158	25	158·23
Hope Carr	...	92	9	99·02
Etherstone	...	135	14	103·70
St. Peter's	...	132	13	98·48

Of the infant deaths occurring in the Borough since 1st January —119—all, except two transferable deaths, have been investigated in detail.

The deaths occurring during the first month of life include all those due to Prematurity, Immaturity, Congenital Defects and Injuries, and are not quite in the same way to be classed as the preventible deaths, such as those which occur later and are due to causes over which there is more immediate control.

CAUSES OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Measles	...	...	...	3	=	2·34	„
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	=	0·78	„
Convulsions	...	...	...	1	=	0·78	„
Bronchitis...	...	...	...	17	}	34 = 26·52	„
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	17			
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	7	}	21 = 16·38	„
Enteritis	...	...	...	14			
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	8	=	6·24	„
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	5	}	33 = 25·74	„
Premature Birth	...	...	...	28			
Marasmus	...	...	...	2	=	1·56	„
Other Causes	...	...	...	13	=	10·14	„
Natural causes	.. 1	}	Inquests	...	}	= 0·78	„
Found dead	... 1			...			
Icterus Neonatorum	...	...	..	2	=	1·56	„

It will be seen from the above table that—

16·38 per cent. of the deaths are due to Epidemic Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

26·52 „ „ „ Acute Diseases of the Respiratory System, Bronchitis and Pneumonia

25·74 „ „ „ Premature Birth and Congenital Malformation

So that 68·64 per cent. of our infant deaths are due solely to these causes.

This is not peculiar to Leigh, as the same causes are found to exist, more or less, in most of the industrial centres having a high infant death-rate, but the deaths of infants from Acute Diseases of the Respiratory System in Leigh are higher than the majority of other similar towns.

The following table gives the figures and percentages of some of the particulars and conditions found to be associated with the infant deaths investigated :—

ALL DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE DURING 1920.

Registered Deaths under 1 year	...	130	
Deaths visited	...	118	
Breast-fed	...	34	= 26·52 per cent.
Bottle-fed (boat-shape bottle)	...	15	
Long tube bottle used	...	0	
Bottle and breast-fed	...	35	
Spoon-fed and unable to be fed	...	34	
Presence of flies	...	28	= 21·84 per cent.
Mothers extra domestically employed	...	18	= 14·04 „
Mothers who depute others to nurse their babies	...	18	= 14·04 „

[In one case the information could not be obtained. The parents had removed from the district.]

No. of families found on investigating
118 infant deaths in 1920 in which
one or more previous infant deaths
had occurred—

31	families lost 1 child previously, under the age of 2 years		
13	„ 2 children previously,	„	„
5	„ 3 „	„	„
1	„ 4 „	„	„
1	„ 5 „	„	„
3	„ 6 „	„	„
Fathers who do not work regularly	...	9	= 7.02 per cent.
Indication of poverty ...	...	0	
Where Food and Milk is stored—			
Scullery...	...	13	= 10.14 „
Pantry ...	...	77	= 60.06 „
Living Room	...	28	= 21.84 „
Lighting and Ventilation—Good	...	101	= 78.78 per cent.
Fair	...	17	= 13.26 „
No. of Houses having 2 rooms...	...	1	= 0.78 „
No. of Houses having 3 rooms...	...	24	= 18.72 „
No. of Houses having 4 rooms	...	37	= 32.19 „
„ „ 5 „ or over	...	56	= 43.68 „
Cleanliness of House—Good	...	81	= 63.18 „
Fair	...	35	= 27.30 „
Bad	...	3	= 2.34 „
Lodgers	...	49	= 38.22 „
W.C. or Privy—W.C.	...	101	= 78.78 „
Privy	...	7	= 5.46 „
Ashpit or Bin—Ashpit	...	109	= 85.02 „
Bin	...	8	= 6.24 „
Proximity of Manure Heaps or Stables	...	10	= 7.80 „
Rent of House—Under 4/-	...	13	= 13.26 „
4/- to 5/-	...	30	= 23.40 „
5/- to 6/-	...	31	= 24.18 „
6/- or over	...	44	= 34.32 „
Sanitary Defects	...	30	= 23.40 „

The second line of attack must be through the midwives. The midwives are taught the necessity of instructing the mother with regard to the importance of breast feeding ; they also are taught the methods

and hygienic conditions under which the artificial feeding of infants may be carried on with a minimum of risk to the child ; and they pay more attention to the personal hygiene of the mothers and the sanitary condition of the houses.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR FROM DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS, 1920.

Cases visited	...	...	...	21	
Breast fed	...	...	...	5	= 23·80 per cent.
Boat bottle	...	...	...	13	= 61·88 „
Bottle and Breast	...	...	...	3	= 14·28 „
Artificially fed	...	...	...	3	= 14·28 „
Nature of Babies' Artificial Food :—					
Nestle's milk	...	...	...	2	= 9·52 „
Cows' milk	...	...	...	2	= 9·52 „
Breast fed	...	..	...	5	= 23·80 „
Patent foods	..	...	...	12	= 57·12 „
Mothers working away from home	...		...	2	= 9·52 „
Number of Children insured : Practically all.					
Sanitary defects discovered and reported					
to Health Department	...	...	...	7	= 33·32 „
Yards partly paved	...	...	...	4	= 19·04 „
Yards unpaved	...	...	...	2	= 9·52 „
Excessive prevalence of flies	...	...	...	10	= 47·60 „
Where Milk is stored—					
In Pantry	...	...	...	10	= 47·60 „
In Back Kitchen or Scullery	...		...	5	= 23·80 „

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR FROM PNEUMONIA (ALL FORMS), 1920.

Deaths visited	...	...	...	17
Breast Fed	...	...	...	8
Bottle fed	...	...	...	1
Long tube bottle used	..	...	...	0
Bottle and breast...	.	...	...	8

Spoon fed	...	...	...	0	
Presence of flies	...	...	...	1	
Mothers extra domestically employed	...			5	
Mothers who do not nurse their babies	...			5	
No. of families found on investigating 17 infant deaths from pneumonia in 1920 in which one or more previous deaths of infants have occurred—					
Fathers who do not work regularly	...			1	
Where food and milk is stored—Scullery	...			3	
Pantry	...			14	
Lighting and Ventilation—Good	...			14	
Fair	...			5	
Poor	...			0	
No. of houses having 3 rooms	...			4	
„ „ 4 „	...			4	
„ „ 5 „	...			8	
Cleanliness of house—Good	...			12	
Fair	...			5	
Poor	...			0	
Lodgers	...			6	
W.C. or Privy—W.C.	...			15	
Privy	...			2	
Ashpit or Bin—Ashpit	...			15	= 99· per cent.
Bin	...			2	
Proximity of manure heaps or stables	..			3	
Rent of house—Under 4/-	...			0	
4/- to 5/-	...			5	
5/- to 6/-	...			5	
6/- or over	...			7	
Sanitary defects	...			1	

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR FROM BRONCHITIS DURING 1920.

Deaths visited	...	..	...	17	
Breast fed	...	...	...	7	= 41·17 per cent.
Bottle fed	...	...	...	5	= 29·41 „
Long tube bottle used	...	...	...	0	
Bottle and breast	...	...	...	5	
Presence of flies	...	...	...	2	
*Mothers extra domestically employed	...			1	

*No babies are taken from their own home

Mothers who put their babies out to nurse	0
No. of families found on investigating 17 infant deaths from Bronchitis in which one or more deaths of infants had occurred—	
1 under 1 year	3 families
2 „ 2	3 „
3 „ 3	2 „
Where is food and milk stored—	
Scullery	1
Pantry	14
Living Room	2
Lighting and Ventilation—Good	17
Fair	0
No. of houses having 2 rooms	0
„ „ 3 „	3
„ „ 4 „	11
„ „ 5 „ or over	3
Cleanliness of house—Good	13
Fair	4
Bad	0
W.C. or Privy—W.C.	15
W.W.C.	2
Ashpit or Bin—Ashpit	17
Bin	0
Proximity of manure heaps or stables	0
Rent of house—Under 4/-	1
5/- to 6/- or over	16
Sanitary defects	2

In concluding this portion of my report, I wish to thank those voluntary helpers who have so ungrudgingly assisted regularly throughout the year, attending week after week at the Welfare Centre giving their services freely.

Mrs. Isherwood and Mrs. Houghton have attended weekly, so that with their services and those of the Health Visitors and School Nurse, the work has been carried on without interruption.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LEIGH, 1919.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)	...	...	...	354	301
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2	2
Small-pox	...	...	...	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	5	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	0
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	4	1
Influenza	...	...	...	12	7
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	32	23
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	3	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	0	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	16	26
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	7	3
Meningitis	...	...	...	1	3
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	35	46
Bronchitis	...	...	...	43	36
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	38	25
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	3
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	18	14
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	2	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	2
Alcoholism	...	...	...	0	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	6	5
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	0	5
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	0	4
Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	28	18
Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	...	25	5
Suicide	...	...	...	3	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	68	57
Cases ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1	2
Special causes (included above)—					
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	0	2
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	0	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	70	60
Total Births	...	...	...	629	592
Legitimate	...	...	...	594	575
Illegitimate	...	...	...	35	17
Population (estimated)	...	...	...	46·239	

HOUSING.

1. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

(1) Total Number of Houses	...	...	...	9,335
Working Class Houses	...	...	...	8,900
Number of Houses erected in 1920			...	14
(2) Population	...	...	...	46,239

Extension of some works are in progress, work generally is brisk in the district, and considerable overcrowding exists.

(3) The estimated shortage of houses is 1,225, made up as follows :—

Unsatisfied Demand	...	...	...	600
To replace Unfit Houses	...	...	}	225
To replace Obstructive Houses...	...	...
Meet Deficiencies	...	...	...	400

To meet the demand, the Corporation has formulated building schemes for 1,125 houses. Building is in progress.

2. OVERCROWDING.

(1) It is estimated that at least 900 houses are occupied by two or more families and that 1,000 houses are overcrowded.

(2) Both these conditions are due solely to shortage of houses.

(3) A list of applicants is maintained by the Properties Committee, and all Corporation houses are allocated on a definite principle by preference being given to those displaced from demolished insanitary property and returned soldiers who had given up their houses, etc. I think some consideration should be given to cases of Tuberculosis and large families, who are not welcomed on that account by private cottage property owners.

No action has been taken to deal with the overcrowding apart from the building of houses, except making unofficial representations to landlords or their agents in favour of some of the worst cases of overcrowding. A few houses were secured in this way which would have been let to people with less encumbrance.

3. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

1. (a) The 8,900 working class houses are of the following types :—

Type of House.		Weekly Rent.	
(a)	Living room, Scullery, and two Bedrooms	... 5/-	pre-war
(b)	„ „ three „	... 6/-	„
(c)	Parlour, Livingroom, Scullery and two Bedrooms		
(d)	„ „ three „	7/6	„
(e)	„ „ four „	10/-	„

There are sixteen back-to-back houses.

(b) The chief defects in unfit houses are :

Dampness.

Defective Ventilation.

Wall and Roof Dilapidations.

Insufficient Closet Accomodation.

Insufficient Air Space.

Unpaved Foul Yards.

Defective Drains and Gullies.

No Provision for Storing Food or Washing.

Absence of Back Doors or Windows.

2. Action taken as regards unfit houses as under :

(a) Public Health Acts.

Notices and letters served on 641 owners and occupiers.

In nearly every case some attempt was made to comply with the requirements. It was found necessary to report 475 to the Health Committee. Abatement of nuisance followed in 449 cases.

3. Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—

(a) Shortness of labour.

(b) Unwillingness of tradesmen to undertake such work when easier and more straightforward work is available.

(c) Difficulty amounting to impossibility in some cases of carrying out the repairs while the house is fully occupied, often crowded.

(d) Danger of having the house voluntary closed under Section 15 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, if a Closing Order is made or a written notice to execute the necessary repairs is sent. Most landlords are willing to remedy defects and repair, but where the requirements are extensive the present cost makes it non-economic, and they would prefer to close and demolish. At present there is no available accommodation for the displaced tenants, so pressure cannot with advantage be brought to bear on the reluctant owner.

The Council have never undertaken to carry out repairs themselves in default of the owner, and unless it was intended to do it on a large scale such as would justify a complete staff for the purpose it would not be advisable.

New houses and plenty of them is the only remedy for the present difficulty.

4. The public water supply is available for every house in the urban part of the Borough, both for drinking, culinary purposes, and for water closets.

It is laid on to taps in the houses in most cases. There are still 421 conversions to fresh water closets unmade, and many closets accommodate two or even three houses. The conversion was in progress before the war, and it is hoped will be soon resumed and continued until complete and providing every house with a separate water closet.

Dry refuse is deposited in bins, loose and fixed, dry and wet ashpits. Loose covered bins should be aimed at. As far as possible the closets, ashpits, and bins have been kept in repair by immediate notice being served on the detection of defects.

4. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No areas have been the subject of representation and no complaints have been received on the subject. It is intended to formulate a programme by which areas and houses will be dealt with as opportunity arises in order of seriousness.

5. BYE-LAWS.

Those made are enforced, except so far as the present housing conditions render it impracticable.

Bye-Laws relating to "houses let in lodgings" would be useful, but present circumstances would debar them being brought into force.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS, YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated Population...	...	...	...	46239
(2) General Death-rate	...	...	...	14'1
(3) Death-rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1'26
(4) Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	106
(5) Number of Dwelling-houses of all classes	...			9335
(6) Number of Working-class Dwelling-houses	...			8900
(7) Number of New Working-class Houses erected	..			13

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	670
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	175
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	Nil
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	599
--	-----

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by Owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	42
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—		
(a) by Owners	.. ...	37
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of Closing Orders were made	.. ...	Nil
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	.. ... ..	Nil
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	Nil
(5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	Nil

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

(1) Name of Area	} Nil
(2) Acreage	... ..
(3) Number of Working-class Houses in Area	...	
(4) Number of Working-class persons to be displaced		

4.—Number of Houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919...

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of Each Officer :—

The Three Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed Inspectors under the Housing Acts and have acted part-time in that capacity.

I wish to acknowledge my appreciation of the cordial support always afforded me by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Council, and to thank my Colleagues and Staff for the help so freely given to me in carrying out the work of the Health Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. CLAY BECKITT,

Medical Officer of Health.

